

**ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
VICTORIA, BC**

**ANNUAL REPORTS TO THE CONGREGATION
2025**



*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church acknowledges and thanks the
Lekwungen People – WS-ÁNEĆ, Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations –
on whose traditional land we meet and worship.*

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ROLL CLERK IN MEMORIUM

Patricia Brown

John Mitchell

Donald John

Sabine Teetzel

Kees Middelkoop

Jack DeZeeuw

In our end is our beginning.
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection.
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

MESSAGE FROM REV. WES DENYER

I have a rather enviable role at St. Andrew's! I enjoy leading in Worship on Sunday morning, and visiting with people during the week, while the Interim Moderator, the Reverend Irwin Cunningham, has the responsibility of chairing meetings and dealing with any issues that may arise.

I am grateful to the welcoming and caring Congregation at St. Andrew's that I have been invited to serve. Jerry, the Clerk of Session, stays on top of the responsibilities of his leadership role. Shannon keeps everything running smoothly in the Office. Jack does an excellent job of keeping track of the Finances and paying bills. Susanne gives very fine leadership on the organ and with the choir.

I need to tell you, that in the midst of this ministerial vacancy, everything continues to operate smoothly as dedicated volunteers step into their assigned responsibilities.

There is so much that goes on at the Church, from ensuring that everything and everyone is ready for Sunday morning, to hosting and organizing concerts and other special events and groups, to welcoming visitors into the beautiful Sanctuary.

So, thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the mission and ministry of St. Andrew's. In a world of upheaval, anxiety, and new and unforeseen challenges, St. Andrew's remains a steady, prayerful and hopeful beacon of community and faith, in a world that so desperately needs the firm and stable foundation which our Church provides.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Wes Denyer, Pulpit Supply

INTERIM MODERATOR

To the Session and Congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Victoria.

While I have served as your Interim Moderator for a relatively brief period, it is an honour to contribute to this year's Annual Report. Reflections on the past year reveal a community that has shown remarkable resilience and commitment to its calling in the heart of Victoria.

A Year of Transition

The year 2025 was characterized by significant change and, at times, a sense of turmoil. The retirement of Interim Minister Rev. Mitch Coggin, combined with the oversight of three different Interim Moderators throughout the year, could have easily unsettled the life of the Congregation. However, I am pleased to report that despite these transitions, St. Andrew's has continued to run smoothly. This stability is a testament to the dedication of the people within these walls.

Leadership and Growth

It has been a genuine pleasure to work alongside the Session. Their wisdom and steady hands have guided the Congregation through this season of vacancy. I am particularly heartened to see the Session has begun the process of adding new Elders to its ranks. This

infusion of new perspectives and energy is a vital sign of health for our future. It is clear that St. Andrew's is well served by its leadership, and the Congregation remains in a financially sound position, allowing us to focus on the ministry ahead without undue burden.

Pastoral Care and Worship

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Rev. Wes Denyer. His regular Pulpit Supply and his willingness to take on special services have provided a consistent and nourishing Word for the Congregation. Furthermore, his commitment to providing the equivalent of one day a week for pastoral visiting has ensured that the care of the flock remains a priority during this interim period.

Looking Ahead

We look forward to an exciting year as the Search Committee continues its diligent work of finding a new Minister. This is a holy task, and I ask for your continued prayers for the committee as they seek the person God is calling to lead this Congregation.

I remain deeply hopeful of seeing a new era in the ministry of St. Andrew's. There is a unique and vital role for this Church to play in the downtown of Victoria, and I believe the foundations laid this past year will support a vibrant future.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Irwin Cunningham, Interim Moderator

SESSION

In the past year, we as a Congregation and Session have said goodbye to many people. Our Transitional Pastor, Rev. Mitch Coggin, retired at the end of February from our Congregation, after many years of guiding us through our search for a Mission Statement, through COVID and our collaboration initiatives. We have said goodbye to Rev. Wayne Stretch, our Presbytery appointed Interim Moderator, who supported both Rev. Coggin and the Congregation and retired with Rev. Coggin at the end of February. We welcomed as Interim Moderator the Rev. Laura Kavanagh who guided us through the final stages of our Church Profile and acceptance of said Profile by the Presbytery who followed up with her own retirement both as Interim Moderator of this Congregation and from her own Congregation of Knox Victoria at the end of August. We welcomed as our new Interim Moderator, the Rev. Irwin Cunningham, from Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian, a Church plant from this Congregation of many years ago.

It was not only Ministers the Session has said goodbye to. We have said goodbye to a number of Elders, who retired due to health concerns, one of which we said our final goodbye to, shortly after her retirement. Last year at this time, the Session numbered 12 Elders, now we number 9. We welcomed back two Elders who were on leave of absence due to various personal situations.

Two Elders, Jim Ferguson and Patti Jackson, took up the challenge of organizing and Co-Chairing the Search Committee for our next Minister. This Committee has since been

fleshed out by a number of Members of the Congregation and is in the early stages of searching for our next Minister under the guidance of our Interim Moderator, Rev. Cunningham.

All Elders have a varied number of members/adherents in their Districts, and some have responsibility for a Committee(s).

In 2025, the Ruling Elders were:

- Jim Ferguson, Co-Chairing the Search Committee
- Elizabeth Gichimu
- Patti Jackson, Chair of Mission and Outreach and Co-Chairing the Search Committee
- David Mclean, Co-Chair of Property
- Jean Marcellus, Roll Clerk and Chair of Communications and Administration
- Saul Preston
- Laura Richards, member of Worship
- David Smith
- Colina Titus, having retired as Elder, continues as both Chair of Congregational Life and Chair of Personnel and Leading with Care. Patti Jackson is her connection to Session.
- Jerry Verwey, Session Clerk, Presbytery Representative, Chair of Worship, and AV.

St. Andrew's has been especially blessed with the arrival of the Rev. Wes Denyer, who retired to Victoria from Ontario, and has agreed to regularly act as Pulpit Supply while the Search Committee continues their work. His sermons since taking on this role in March of 2025, have been inspiring and well received. In addition, Rev. Denyer has taken on the part-time roll as Pastoral Care for any who need it. This is not only appreciated by Session but also the Interim Moderator.

Respectfully Submitted, Jerry Verwey, Session Clerk

ROLL CLERK

The Roll Clerk is responsible to maintain a Roll of the professing Members, a Register of Baptisms, and a record containing the names and addresses of all Members and Adherents connected with the Congregation.

Number of Members on The Roll: 85

Number of Adherents on The Roll: 51

Births: No Births this year

Celebration of Baptism: One – January 12, 2025

Reception of New Members: One – April 20, 2025 – Mark Alchuk

Addition of Adherents: Two

Removal from The Roll:

As Per Roll Review and Session's Approval: Zero

Moved Away from our Church: One Adherent

Asked to be Removed Due to Transfer of Certificate: One Member

Deaths: Six: Five Members; One Adherent

Patricia Brown

John Mitchell

Donald John

Sabine Teetzel

Kees Middelkoop

Jack DeZeeuw

Respectfully Submitted, Jean Marcellus, Roll Clerk

REPRESENTATIVE ELDER TO PRESBYTERY

Presbytery is the umbrella body of the Presbyterian Church in Canada responsible for the 10 Congregations and one Mission (Ministries) on Vancouver Island. All PCC members are welcome to attend Presbytery meetings as observers, and Presbytery members can share reports and minutes (except for confidential matters). If you have any questions regarding Presbytery business, your Representative Elder will be pleased to share what they know.

Knox Sooke extended a Call in 2025 to the Rev. Jacqueline Cleland to a shared ministry with 50% time for Knox and 50% time for a new Church plant ministry called 'The Vine', slated to meet the needs of a different demographic within the community.

St. Andrew's Nanaimo continues with the UpperLVL ministry as an outreach of St. Andrew's Nanaimo.

Trinity reported several baptisms, both adult and infant, and continues to slowly grow allowing the lapsed Sunday School to restart. Though small, they can see growth in small numbers and are encouraged by the working of the Spirit within them.

The Presbytery welcomed a number of retired Ministers to within its bounds which will somewhat alleviate the burden of Pulpit Supply.

Cedar Tree ministries continue the outreach program to our Indigenous Nation at Cowichan. Our Indigenous Nations on the Island account for 20% of the Provincial First Nations and 6% nationally with 53 First Nations on the Island. The Rev. Joey Cho has been faithfully providing that ministry for about 18 years.

Knox Victoria continues following their decision to stop the amalgamation/collaboration process with St. Andrew's. With the retiring of their long-time minister, Rev. Kavanagh, they have sought closer ties with Hollydene Church who rents space in their building. Rev. Daniel Martinez, Minister from St. Andrew's Duncan, is their Interim Moderator.

Rev. Kavanagh continues her work with the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy at UVic. We have seen some of the attendees at St. Andrew's.

In June, the Presbytery met in Comox Valley and heard the Reports of the 150th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

June also saw the acceptance of the Church Profile from St. Andrew's, allowing this Congregation to step forward toward Calling a Minister.

The Synod of BC met in Kimberly on Oct 17th – 19th and had hosted Dr. Mark Glanville, a Director of the Centre for Missional Leadership, St. Andrew's Hall, who is an Old Testament scholar and Jazz musician who led a workshop combining teaching, preaching and music.

Respectfully Submitted, Jerry Verwey, Representative to the Presbytery

SEARCH COMMITTEE – END OF YEAR REPORT

The Co-Chairpersons of the Search Committee of Jim Ferguson and Patti Jackson were named by Session. The Team Leads [Jim and Patti] approached members of the Congregation and asked them to consider serving on the team. Along with Jim and Patti, team members include Angus Henderson, Arthur Marcellus, Darby Howard, Janet Eastwood and Mark Alchuk. The team is further supported by our Interim Moderator – Reverend Irwin Cunningham.

The team's initial meeting was held at the end of September.

One of the outputs was a S.W.O.T. Analysis. SWOT means **S**trengths, **W**eakness, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats. The team applied these to our view of St. Andrew's and [to name a few examples] identified our **Strengths** [Downtown Church, Heritage Building, all are welcomed], **Weakness** [Older Building, Aging Congregation, Low Community profile],

Opportunities [encourage younger people, people looking for a purpose, purposeful rest to encourage young families], **Threats** [Ageing Congregation, Heavy expectations on newcomers, Downtown Church]. There were other considerations, but I am providing these as a small example.

We adopted a contrarian approach to “that’s the way we have always done it” to one of “what do we want to see in our future”. We continued to generate ideas and plan to develop them so when the time comes, our search will appeal to a dynamic, forward-looking Minister.

As of the end of December 2025, we had not received any applications for our Ministry. We look forward to 2026 as an opportunity to build our future on the foundation of our past.

We are blessed to have an energetic team, open-minded and willing to speak to our future at St. Andrew’s.

Keep the Search Team in your thoughts and prayers as we continue the journey.

Respectfully Submitted, Jim Ferguson, Co-Chair, Search Committee,
searchcommittee@standrewsvictoria.ca

PERSONNEL AND LEADING WITH CARE

What do we do?

The Personnel Committee and Leading with Care Committee have two primary areas of responsibility.

Personnel

‘Personnel’ is responsible to provide a safe and collegial work environment for the employees and clergy of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church and to ensure that the Church follows current Employment Regulations in BC. The Personnel Committee ensures that all required Employment Policies are in place and are reviewed with the employees and clergy.

Although Presbytery has final oversight of the Minister, it is the Congregation, Employees and Elders who have the greatest understanding of how the Minister is meeting the goals stated in the Call Document. Employees and Ministers are given regular employment evaluation.

Personnel Policies

The Personnel Committee is responsible to write and update all Personnel Policies.

Current Policies:

- Terms of Employment (Employee and Clergy)
- Workplace Code and Ethics (Employee and Clergy)
- Bullying and Harassment ((Employee and Clergy)
- Health and Safety (Employee and Clergy)

- Working Alone (Employee and Clergy)
- Communicable Disease Prevention (Employee and Clergy)

St. Andrew's employees each bring unique gifts and skills to our Congregation.

Church Officer – Grant Shepard

Church Administrator, St. Andrew's and Knox – Shannon Cummings

Webmaster – Martin Perez

Director of Music Ministry – Christine Purvis (until April 7, 2025), Susanne Reul-Zastre (beginning September 1, 2025)

Transitional Minister (until February 28, 2025) – Pastor Mitch Coggin

Interim Moderator – Rev. Wayne Stretch (until February 28, 2025) Rev. Laura Kavanagh (until July 31, 2025), Rev. Irwin Cunningham (ongoing)

We commend and thank each of them for their efforts and commitment to the Church. Much of what they do each week is 'done behind the scenes'.

It was a year to say goodbye to Pastor Mitch Coggin, Rev. Stretch and Christine Purvis, and then to welcome Susanne Reul-Zastre as Director of Music Ministry and Rev. Cunningham as the Interim Moderator.

Leading with Care

'Leading with Care' responsibilities are to inform and educate members of the Congregation about the requirements of the Presbyterian Church in Canada Leading with Care Policy; this policy outlines the procedures required to ensure the safety of all vulnerable individuals, and the training that should be provided to leaders, Sunday School Teachers, Elders and those who visit people in their homes. It also outlines steps that need to be established to minimize risk to all individuals accessing the Church facilities and Church activities.

St. Andrew's has on-line access to:

- Application for Criminal Record Checks; required for anyone working with vulnerable youth and adults.
- Training, including 'Leading with Care', 'Harassment Training'.

Respectfully Submitted, Colina Titus, Chair Personnel and Leading with Care

Health and Wellness

The Health and Wellness Committee embarked upon a project with The Activity Group to Review, Renew and Replenish all the First Aid Kits at St. Andrew's. Many of the Kits had been untouched for many years and it was time to bring them up to date to meet the standards set out by Work Safe BC, the Provincial Guide, which is mandatory for all employers in BC to have for their employees.

St. Andrew's employs four staff members and in addition, hundreds of people come through this space every week, either as volunteers, congregant participants or attendees and so it is mandatory to be up to date with all Provincial Health Policies.

Using Work Safe BC Standards as our guide, we examined the locations, contents and necessary items needed for First Aid Kits at St. Andrew's. The ten original Kits have been reduced to seven with three extra kits available for camping trips or picnic events. Kits are marked with some identification of RED; the goal is to have each Kit visible and accessible. All Kits are complete with the necessary equipment needed for any First Aid.

Location of the Kits: Narthex, The Gathering Room (on top of fridge), Nursery, Grant's office, Church office, Kitchen, AA Room, Naloxone Kit cupboard (Shannon)

Sincere thanks go to each person who helped with this project and especially for those who came weekly on the Thursday mornings Activity Group to help with this project.

Finalization of the project including scheduling monthly maintenance which will be completed early in 2026.

Respectfully Submitted, Dorothy Reimer

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Who are we?

This committee consists of the Interim Moderator, Rev. Irwin Cunningham, Director of Music Ministry, Susanne Reul-Zastre, and two Elders (J. Verwey as Lead, L. Richards).

What do we do?

Worship Committee is responsible for all aspects of Worship. The Committee co-ordinates with staff and over 20 members who volunteer as choristers, ushers, greeters, AV operators, readers, assistance with décor, Communion preparation & distribution (including to home-bound), hymn boards, collection & accounting for donations, Facebook, and YouTube site maintenance and up-dating. Our thanks to all who make Worship (in all its formats) possible!

This past year, Rev. Denyer has led most of our Services since becoming our regular Pulpit Supply starting on the 2nd Sunday in March (1st Sunday in Lent) through Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We Welcomed the Rev. Dr. Richard Topping on the last Sunday of April who preached on "**New Life**". We welcomed the Canadian Scottish Regiment for the 1st Sunday in May as Victory in Europe Day, end of hostilities in Europe, and to rededicate our Memorial Windows. Chaplain of the Regiment, Rev. Andrew Gates, preached the Sermon. The Pipe Major Roger McGuire played the Lament, with David Barrs playing the Last Post and Rouse. Lt. Col. (retired) Slade Lerch was the Worship Reader for the day.

This past year we said good-bye, after Easter Service, to our long-time Music Director, Christine Purvis, who moved to the Mainland to be with her family. We welcomed Steven Benson and Norma Kobald as Guest Organists from late April till September. During the

Summer we hired our present Director of Music Ministry, Susanne Reul-Zastre, who started September 1st.

In May, the Seattle Children's Chorus joined us on the 25th for the Service and afterwards held a Concert in the Sanctuary, a welcome, showing our joint respect for each other in this time of governmental tension.

During the Summer we welcomed to the pulpit, a variety of preachers, including Rev. John Rajendra, Rev. Angie Song, Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, Rev. Richard Topping, Rev. Kavanagh, who preached her last sermon at St. Andrew's before retiring, as well as Rev. Denyer.

St. Andrew's participated in a joint Service in the Park with Knox Victoria, Knox Sooke, Chinese Victoria and Trinity.

During the year our average in-person attendance was between 52 and 60, with up to 11 persons watching on-line during the Service and another 25-35 accessing the Service at other times. During the Fall and into the Winter, a small increase has been seen for in-person attendance. Our three standard Communion had a participation between 72 and 88. In addition, Easter Communion had over 90 participants, however that was a special Christian celebration. We are always reminded that the Table we set is not ours but the Lord's. At Christmas Eve, the attendance was estimated to be between 100 and 110.

We welcomed visitors throughout the year from many places seeking a Presbyterian connection; some only once and others for extended periods.

Our Ushering Teams, led by Bruce Wasyluk and his many Volunteers, welcomed the members and visitors at the doors, assisting them as needed. Many thanks for their diligent service.

Respectfully Submitted, Jerry Verwey, Worship Lead and Laura Richards

Worship Music

The St. Andrew's Presbyterian Ministry of Music team includes the Director of Music Ministry and a multi-generational group of 12 passionate and dedicated volunteer singers (both local and visiting from colder climates), including four paid Choral Scholars, who all strive to enhance Worship through beautiful anthems, hymns, and special seasonal music. Together, they nurture the Parish and each other, supporting Worship and singing The Word.

From Dorothy Reimer (January-August 2025):

After nine years of incumbency, Christine Purvis resigned as Music Director as of Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, with the congregation hosting a Celebratory Good-bye Event on Palm Sunday. She and her husband moved to Langley, BC to be closer to their grandchildren and family. The Choir expressed great gratitude and thanks to Christine for all that she had led them through and was very sad to see her leave. Christine's legacy at St. Andrew's was to have her vision of a Choral Scholar Programme implemented with four

music students from the UVic School of Music which is now in its 4th year. In 2025, the Choral Scholars were Darby Howard, Noah Mellemstrand, Eva Smith, and Dylan Syrnyk.

A Committee was formed over the late Spring/Summer to interview and hire a new Director of Music Ministry (combined positions of Organist and Choir Director). Five applications were received, and the Committee interviewed two candidates. From late April to the end of August, weekly Worship Services were played by organists Steven Benson and Norma Kobald while the Choir was led by Darby Howard who also looked after choosing the hymns and anthems, as well as arranging special music for the services. We express our gratitude to this transitional team who took care of the Ministry of Music and allowed Worship to carry on seamlessly.

Susanne Reul-Zastre began her tenure as the new Director of Music Ministry at St. Andrew's on September 1, 2025. She holds a B.Mus from UVic, a M.Mus from Western and an Associateship with the Royal Canadian College of Organists and brings with her 30+ years' experience as Organist and Choir Director at various Churches in the Greater Victoria region. She has also been volunteering her time and talent since 1993 with the Victoria Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organist (Past President 2025-2026), helping to organize many concerts, workshops, members' recitals, exams, scholarship auditions, a national conference, as well as special events and continues to be the Centre's correspondent with Organ Canada, a uniquely Canadian Journal celebrating and examining organ and Church music across the country.

From Susanne Reul-Zastre (September-December 2025):

I would like to thank the various Ministers, Elders, Members of the Session, HR Team, and indeed the whole Congregation, for their warm welcome since I started. I was blessed with invaluable guides during the first couple of months while I was adjusting to my new work environment.

Besides the weekly duties of Service preparation and choir and soloists' rehearsal, special projects in the Fall 2025 started with arranging a rotating schedule of the choral scholars presenting music during the Reflection part after the Sermon and addressing congregational copyright issues when livestreaming hymns during weekly services. Organ tuning and console battery replacement issues needed to be dealt with in October and November. Not only am I delighted that St. Andrew's is able to provide organ practicing space to two young local musicians, I also enjoyed hosting Members of the RCCO Victoria Organ studio members (Dr. Mark McDonald, Director) who tried out the St. Andrew's organ in October. A definite high point for me was arranging the Gift of Christmas Music and Carol Sing on December 11th as part of the St. Andrew's Music Outreach series.

I save my greatest thanks for the choir and choral scholars who all attend so faithfully the weekly rehearsals and Worship Services. Coming together to discover fellowship and spiritual enrichment comes from sharing one's voice in praise and the choristers are truly a dedicated group and a joy to lead!

Respectfully submitted, Susanne Reul-Zastre, Director of Music Ministry & Dorothy Reimer

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Who are we?

Patti Jackson (Chair), Patricia Shuckburgh and Debra Verwey. Before his retirement at the end of February 2025, Mitch Coggin (Transitional Minister) was part of the Mission & Outreach Committee.

What do we do?

The Mission and Outreach Committee helps St. Andrew's to serve those around us locally, nationally and internationally by seeking funds and drawing attention to various projects and coordinating Mission and Outreach related activities with other committees and individuals. The Mission and Outreach Committee members regularly contributed articles to TWASA and The Link throughout the year. Past articles can be found on the St. Andrew's website.

International: The Congregation voted through the 2025 budget process to donate \$1,500 to Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D) as our minimum contribution to the global work of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Mission and Outreach shared with the Congregation the ongoing work of Presbyterian World Service & Development with Mission Moments during the month of February. The 2025 fundraising campaign focused on the areas of greatest need with particular attention on Gaza. Thank you to St. Andrew's for continually supporting the work of PWS&D throughout the entire year with your financial contributions.

International and National: \$22,150 was sent to Presbyterian Sharing in response to our Annual Assessment by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Presbyterian Sharing is the National Church fund that supports mission and ministry in Canada and around the world.

Local: A number of Mission & Outreach events, fundraisers and programs happened throughout 2025. The Team Leads who gave a lot of their time to help to organize activities are as follows: Camp VIP Representative (Jerry Verwey), Music Outreach and Christmas Carol Sing (Dawn McLean), Open Church & Meditation Hour (Jerry Verwey), and Share the Joy of Christmas (Debra Verwey). In addition, thank you to all in the St. Andrew's community who have supported all the various initiatives and activities in 2025.

Cedar Tree Ministries

\$900.00 was donated to Cedar Tree Ministries. Cedar Tree Ministries is an outreach ministry to the Cowichan Tribe Community. The Cowichan Grace Church reaches out in many different ways, including Sunday Worship services, Sunday school, a youth program, and a program for moms and babies. A mini food bank is open every Sunday at the Church providing food to those in need in the Cowichan Tribe community.

Journey for Hope (Together in Motion and Song)

Journey of Hope in 2025 was a collaborative event between five of the local Presbyterian Churches throughout Greater Victoria. While the official date for Journey for Hope was

September 27th, this event, Together in Motion and Song, took place over a Thursday and Saturday. On Thursday September 18th, a Hymn Sing was held at Trinity Presbyterian Church. In addition to the hymn singing, stories were shared about the impact of Presbyterian World Service and Development. On September 20th an enthusiastic team of folks walked around the Gorge Park waterway to continue the fundraising. Our team, Together in Motion and Song, collectively raised over \$2000 for Journey for Hope in support of PWS&D's food security projects.

Mustard Seed Street Church Thanksgiving Food Drive

St. Andrew's members and adherents contributed \$465.00 to the Mustard Seed Street Church Thanksgiving Food Drive during the months of September and October. The Mustard Seed Street Church is able to stretch each and every dollar contributed for maximum buying power to provide food to those in need in the Greater Victoria area.

Muffins for AA and Vegetarian Meals for Inclusive Christians: Around the Table

Approximately every three weeks, a small group of bakers prepared muffins at home and then dropped them off for the AA meetings at noon. Sometimes, other nutritious foods are also included.

In addition, a small group of soup makers prepared and dropped off vegetarian soups and other food items for meals in the Spring, Summer and Fall terms for Around the Table. On Wednesday evenings, UVic's Inclusive Christians program meets at the Multifaith Centre at the University of Victoria. Both groups are very appreciative of the homemade cooking that is prepared.

Warm Toes Sock Drive

This Advent season we collected warm socks to donate to the Mustard Seed. Warm and dry socks are one of the items needed daily at the Mustard Seed. Thank you to the community of St. Andrew's for filling a tote right to the brim with socks. The socks were delivered to the Mustard Seed just before Christmas.

Respectfully Submitted, Patti Jackson, Chair Mission and Outreach

Share the Joy of Christmas

Each year the Congregation and adherents of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church donate money to the Share the Joy of Christmas campaign with the goal of making the holiday season brighter and more hopeful for persons who are struggling financially in the Greater Victoria area. We pass along the donations that we receive to the Mustard Seed Street Church who run a food bank and have the connections to really stretch the money to fill Christmas baskets with nutritious food and small gifts for needy families who live near us.

Our donations amounted to over \$4,215 this year which was enough money to provide many Christmas baskets for needy families and individuals. Thank you very much everyone at St. Andrew's for your generosity.

Respectfully Submitted, Debra Verwey

Gift of Christmas Music and Carol Sing

St. Andrew's has been offering the Gift of Christmas Music and Carol Sing to the Victoria community for over 15 years. It started small and now several hundred people attend the annual event in the Sanctuary.

Families, couples, some on their own, some living or working downtown, and some have been coming since it began to enjoy this noontime and mid-week event.

It is primarily a Carol sing-along; carols are chosen by the audience and accompanied by the organ. Singing is interspersed with beautiful vocals and instrumentals. David Barrs, whose mother was a former St. Andrew's organist, once again played his trumpet from the balcony.

St. Andrew's Outreach team volunteered to graciously welcome, greet, usher, and thank those who attended. Volunteers donated and served muffins and hot drinks to those arriving. "It takes a village to host this event."

In 2025, Susanne Reul-Zastre, St. Andrew's Director of Music Ministry, accompanied the performance on the organ and piano and St. Andrew's choral singers led the Carol singing. Vocal, organ and flute selections were beautifully performed. Rev. Denyer thanked everyone for coming and invited the audience to St. Andrews' Christmas Eve Service. The sing-along closed with everyone singing, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

Respectfully Submitted, Dawn McLean

Camp VIP

The Presbytery sponsors three camps namely the Mid-Week Escape in early June and two separate Family Camps which were held last year, one at Goldstream Group Site and the other at Rath Trevor Beach Group site. Since the Presbytery does not own its own camp, as a number of Presbyteries across the country do, we reserve space in our Provincial Parks one year ahead of the event. Sometimes that is very challenging on reservation day.

The Mid-Week Escape in June was attended by about 14 individual groups at Little Qualicum River Falls Provincial Camp site. Our theme speaker was Eric Kuehnel from St. Andrew's Nanaimo. His Theme was *Loving to Pray and Praying to Love*. He spoke about methods of prayer and specifically Lectio Divina.

The second camp was held at Goldstream Provincial Park in July. Our theme speaker was Rev. Elizabeth Forrester from St. Andrew's Nanaimo. Her Theme was *How God Uses Our Body Parts* and our devotional hymn was *Take My Life and Let It Be*.

The third camp was at Rath Trevor Provincial Park in August. Our theme speaker was Meredith Reems, from St. Andrew's Nanaimo. She spoke to us about 'tables' – what we do at our table, what the Bible says about tables and how tables are used in the Bible.

Most camps were well attended with the exception of the Goldstream Camp. Thus, this year the Presbytery Camp committee (CCYC-Camp Children & Youth Committee) have booked the following camps:

- Mid-Week Escape June 8th – 12th at Little Qualicum River Falls Provincial Park – individual registration
- Family Camp 1 July 25th – July 30th at Rath Trevor Beach Group Site
- Family Camp 2 July 30th – Aug 3rd (long weekend) at Rath Trevor Beach Group Site.

More information will follow on the Information Board as it becomes available.

Respectfully Submitted, Jerry Verwey, Congregational Camp Representative

Vancouver Island Presbyterian Women's Retreat

Thirty-five Vancouver Island Presbyterian women attended the Women's Spring Retreat on April 25th – 27th. Reverend Dr. Monica Scrivens, from Amberlea Presbyterian Church, in Pickering Ontario, led the four sessions. The Spring Retreat was held at Camp Imadene on Mesachie Lake, near Cowichan Lake. Attending were women from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Victoria, Knox and Trinity in addition to the other attendees from the rest of the Island. Delicious meals were prepared by a professional chef and Mona Scrivens provided the spiritual food. There was also time for different activities such as puzzles, canoeing and relaxation at the Retreat. The age range of those attending was 19 to 80! A wonderful time to grow spiritually in a relaxed setting.

Respectfully Submitted, Patti Jackson, Chair Mission and Outreach

Open Church and Meditation Hour

Over the last year, the Church has been regularly opened to the public on Wednesday. We hosted visitors from many Nations both for the historical aspect of our building and witness to our faith, as well as a place of personal reflection in an area bustling with the noise of commerce. Unfortunately, we had been unable to open during Port visits for the many cruise ships as not many cruise ships visit on Wednesdays.

We've had between 5 and 40 at our Openings over the year at both the Noon Hour opening and 4 o'clock Meditation Hour. Some of those visitors have returned from time to time seeking a welcoming community of faith. We are called to be the leaven in the bread of society, and our silent personal witness is part of that calling. Our visible presence in the core of our City is a testament of the faith we espouse. Being open represents our faith in action.

As we enter our 136th year of that witness, we will continue to open our Sanctuary regularly and additionally, days such as Victoria Day and Remembrance Day. If any wish to assist in that function, please contact me.

Respectfully Submitted, Jerry Verwey

Music Outreach

The Music Outreach Program is a partnership between St. Andrew's and the UVic School of Music with funding from the Victoria Foundation.

It began during COVID when music students were offered the Sanctuary as a place to practice their instruments. In time, Sunday afternoon concerts were held in the Sanctuary during November-December and March-April.

The Victoria Foundation has been very supportive of these Downtown Community Events. St. Andrew's has 12 - 14 excellent volunteers who organize and support these concerts for the Congregation and the Community. (AV support, greeting, welcoming, photography, managing donations, publicity, arranging receptions for students and the audience, and more.) And thank you to Shannon, Church Administrator, for her creative posters.

In 2025, ten concerts were held in St. Andrew's Sanctuary:

- February 9th: Guitar
- March 16th: Brass ensemble
- March 23rd: Cello
- March 30th: Viola and concert groups
- May 25th: Seattle Children's Chorus (60 singers)
- June 28th: Quartet Fest West (quartets from across Canada)
- July 5th: Gaia All Women's String Quartet
- November 23rd: Guitar
- November 30th: Cello
- December 6th: Violin and various strings

Thank you to all St. Andrew's volunteers, staff and members of the Congregation who organize this music outreach. The UVic Professors and music students appreciate the opportunity to play in St. Andrew's Sanctuary and especially appreciate a supportive audience when they perform their pieces. Looking forward to 2026.

Respectfully Submitted, Dawn McLean

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Who are we?

Moira Bernard, Patti Jackson, Cathy Mackenzie, Dorothy Reimer, Fiona Ryneveld and Colina Titus.

What we do?

The mandate of the Congregational Life Committee is to promote a sense of community, by building relationships and creating opportunities for fellowship. We want to make St. Andrew's a place to belong, where everyone can feel welcome in the Church family.

How do we do it?

A successful event needs planning, advertising and a team of volunteers. In true Presbyterian fashion, the two important ingredients are food (lots of it) and people. Sadly, we are no longer able to host our trademark range of events; volunteers are fewer and older and access to our Kirk Hall space is limited.

Extenuating circumstances required a different and modified approach, one that continues to remind us that we are a family. We continue to look for opportunities to celebrate. We served cakes on the occasions of a baptism, a 55-year wedding anniversary and a combined event to celebrate our choral student's graduation from University and to say Farewell to Christine who had been our Music Director and Organist for eight years. We hosted celebrations to express our appreciation; first to Rev. Wayne Stretch as he retired as our Interim Moderator and then just two weeks later for Rev. Mitch Coggin as he retired as our Transitional Pastor. Stories were told, photos shared and thanks given.

Close to 15 years ago, Sabine Teetzel proposed the idea of the Congregational Life Committee. Through the years, she shared her special brand of creativity, fun, enthusiasm and above all hospitality to the events hosted by this Committee. As we grieve her death, we acknowledge her legacy; make sure to include everyone, provide lots of good food and have fun; the foundations for building community.

Respectfully Submitted, Colina Titus, Chair Congregational Life

Coffee Hour

On Sunday mornings, one of the first announcements from the pulpit is to welcome everyone to Coffee Hour and provide directions.

St. Andrew's after-service Coffee Hour continues to be a highlight of our Sunday mornings. Members and Adherents continue conversations and laughter, and it is evident that St. Andrew's folk make visitors feel welcome and included.

Again, many thanks to the two teams who set up, make tea and coffee, provide treats, clean up and do laundry afterward.

Besides our two committed coffee teams, thanks must also be extended to Grant for setting up tables and to Sheelagh for ensuring that kitchen supplies of coffee, tea and sugar are always on hand.

We are fortunate to have such committed volunteers and staff.

Respectfully Submitted, Catherine Mackenzie

The Prayer Chain

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” James 5:16

The purpose of the Prayer Team (Chain) is to provide prayerful support for members and adherents of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Victoria. Currently there are 12 members of the Prayer Team who faithfully pray for the needs of others and consider it a blessing to be able to pray for others in intercessory prayer.

Prayer requests are confidential and are not shared with anyone. They are specific and do not include any unnecessary details. There must be consent from the person or family member to be included for prayer. Sometimes we pray for healing, sometimes for God’s comfort and often we rejoice in answered prayer. In all prayers we ask that God’s Will be done.

We members of the Prayer Chain consider it an honour and a privilege to pray to our Heavenly Father for others in their time of need. It is a way in which we can express our love for others as God has commanded us to do.

If anyone would like to join the Prayer Team, we encourage you to do so. We simply speak to God and lift others up to Him. Won’t you join us? You may be surprised at the result.

Respectfully Submitted, Fiona Ryneveld

Activity Group

St. Andrew’s Activity Group is pleased to report that 2025 resulted in continued outreach efforts with the already established outreach programs at Compassionate Resource Warehouse (CRW) and we added a second outreach initiative, James Bay New Horizons Seniors, to assist in their food security efforts.

We continue to be in close contact with CRW. The global needs, and initiatives, change constantly and as we have learned of specific needs, the Activity Group has coordinated several collections at St. Andrew’s. Through your generosity we’ve been able to collect towels, toiletries, school supplies, plastic plates and bowls, receiving blankets, onesies, sleepers and tote bags. In addition, materials have been repurposed to create many, many dignity bags and tote bags. The dignity bags are small cloth bags containing several cloth menstrual pads that can be used by young women as they strive to continue their day-to-day activities. St. Andrew’s has contributed to shipments sent to Gambia, Burundi, Ukraine, Zimbabwe, Papua-New Guinea and Ghana. Supplies fill the needs in schools, camps, orphanages and training programs.

Our new outreach initiative was started in April as we built, and filled, multiple container gardens. Blessed with good plants, seeds and wonderful sunshine our vegetables grew and over the summer our Activity Group members ensured they were watered and harvested. Over a period of four months, we were able to donate to the James Bay New Horizons programs more than 100 bags, big and small, of carrots, tomatoes, peppers, onions, Swiss chard, peas, and potatoes.

On advice, we attempted a small Fall planting, but it was soon obvious that more expertise, or more sun, was needed to have any success. We will continue the Summer vegetable garden in 2026. While we waited for the vegetables to grow, in April we were pleased to have Dorothy Reimer show us how to get started in the art of Zentangle. Eight people participated in this workshop.

In November, in her role as St. Andrew's Health and Wellness lead, Dorothy asked if we would assist in a review, and organization of the First Aid Kits, at St. Andrew's. We have had 11 people attend the review of the kits. The review was postponed during Christmas activities and will be completed by February 2026. Thank you to Dorothy for her willingness to work with us on this very necessary project.

Thank you also to our faithful Activity Group who take on each new task with enthusiasm and perseverance. The Activity Group welcomes all each Thursday morning; drop in for visit or help with the latest initiative.

Let's share ideas and work together.

Respectfully Submitted, Sheelagh Garson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Reverend Kavanagh held a six-week Lenten Study at Knox Presbyterian for both Congregations, in which participants discussed the format of the Presbyterian Worship Service, considering the 'why' and the 'where' the Elements are placed the service was the focus of the devotions.

During the Lenten season, Christian Education provided an opportunity for persons to share personal stories, scripture, poetry, songs and artwork that has shaped their life of faith. Interesting reflections were shared about the ways that God has been present in our everyday lives. The Lenten Reader was shared with Congregations at St. Andrew's, Knox, and Trinity Presbyterian Churches in Victoria. The reflections provided another way to engage with one another to hear God's word and encouragement.

At present, we do not have children that attend St. Andrew's regularly. At last year's Annual General Meeting appeals were made for Congregational members to teach, oversee Sunday School and Christian Education delivery. Unfortunately, these appeals were unsuccessful.

It is time for us to think about Christian Education delivery in a new way. The rhythm of life has changed, and we need to change how we meet people's spiritual needs. We need to

work together to make Christian Education part of our ongoing life at St. Andrew's. How can we all be part of a renewal of spiritual growth at St. Andrew's?

Respectfully Submitted, Colina Titus

COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Who are we?

Jean Marcellus and St. Andrew's employees Shannon Cummings (Church Administrator), Martin Perez (Webmaster) and Rev. Mitch Coggin (Transitional Minister until February 28, 2025)

What do we do?

- Coordinate Church communication within the Church and widely through the community through a wide range of platforms.
- Coordinate Annual meetings and preparation of the Annual Report
- Oversee the functions of the Church Office

Our two weekly communiqués from the Church have been combined into one Thursday communique - This Week at St. Andrew's (TWASA), and the Service Bulletin released on Thursdays. Thank you, Shannon. Also The Link is included in the first Thursday of the month's e-mail. For those who don't have e-mail, our communiques are either mailed or delivered in-person.

Thank you, Martin Perez, for faithfully maintaining our website and keeping our data safe in 2025. Our new website built in 2024 contains a wealth of information. Please visit it at www.standrewsvictoria.ca

Please see a separate report on This Week at St. Andrews (TWASA) and the Service Bulletin Thursday e-mail.

Respectfully Submitted, Jean Marcellus, Chair Communications and Administration

The LINK Newsletter

The Editors of The Link are always busy collecting information and stories as well as photos to publish in The Link, the Church's Monthly Newsletter. We hope that The Link became a steady rhythm in the lives of the members of our Congregation and was instrumental in keeping our members connected, engaged and informed. We feel that it reminds us that we are a family moving together in faith.

Every issue includes an article from the Minister, a Session report, reports of Committees, as well as articles and photos from members that would be of interest to the Congregation. With Rev. Mitch's retirement, we have been blessed by Rev. Wes Denyer who has filled our pulpit and has also contributed to The Link.

Our Church Newsletter is produced 10 months of the year and is circulated by e-mail as well as being available as a print copy. The Link is also published in colour on our Church's website and can also be accessed electronically at www.standrewsvictoria.ca

The Editors would like to advise the Congregation that the program that we use to publish The Link will no longer be supported by Microsoft after October 2026.

Remember all contributions can be sent to thelink@standrewsvictoria.ca

Respectfully Submitted, Fiona Ryneveld

Facebook

Our Church's Facebook page has continued to be well used this past year. We are blessed to have social media to help keep us all connected.

Postings are done for Sunday Services and sometimes, on Thursdays.

Many special events were included in the Posts, i.e., Lent and Advent events, Classical Music Concerts, events about our Presbyterian sister Churches, PWS&D, and other events that take place in our Church.

Respectfully Submitted, Jean Marcellus

TWASA (This Week at St. Andrew's) and Thursday E-mail

TWASA

'This Week at St. Andrew's' (TWASA) is a weekly Church Newsletter. It is currently published Thursday afternoons, but for most of 2025, it was published on Tuesday afternoons. It keeps the St. Andrew's community informed of Church life. Submissions can be made by contacting the Church Office. You can subscribe to the Weekly Announcements e-mail to receive a digital copy or pick up a printed copy at the Church. It is also available to view on St. Andrew's Website.

TWASA articles include:

- 'From the Pulpit' by the Rev. Wes Denyer
- Church Announcements
- Church Events
- Community Events
- Presbyterian Church in Canada Articles
- Presbyterian World Service & Development Articles
- Other Submissions

Respectfully Submitted, Shannon Cummings, Church Administrator

Thursday Announcements

Every Thursday an announcement e-mail is sent out to those on our e-mail list. It prepares the St. Andrew's community for the coming week.

The announcement e-mail includes:

- The Service Bulletin
- Special Announcements
- TWASA
- The Link

You can subscribe and unsubscribe from the e-mail list by clicking the link in the body of each e-mail, or by contacting the Church Office. The announcements e-mail list currently has 161 subscribers.

Printed copies of all this material are also available for pick up at the Church.

If you are unable to attend Church in person and not comfortable using e-mail, you can sign up for the Homebound List by contacting the Church Office. Each week this material will be mailed to your home. The Homebound List currently has five subscribers.

Respectfully Submitted, Shannon Cummings, Church Administrator

Livestream and Audio-Visual

In the past year, we have regularly livestreamed our Weekly Services and Special Concerts. Our Services regularly have between eight to eleven persons during the livestream. Unfortunately, we do not know where they are watching from. I know some are definitely some of our homebound folks. Over the week, we have up to 45 persons checking in to our livestream. We continue to be challenged by some technical issues. The latest being the sound board mixer problems which is being replaced with a newer unit. These problems manifested just before Christmas on the 25 + year old unit which would have required a cost of \$500+ to repair. Another problem is the shortage of Operators for the livestream. Our second major Operator indicated they would be moving up-Island; therefore we are seeking another operator. The livestream and audio-visual component is an important part of our Worship and Outreach.

Respectfully Submitted, Jerry Verwey, AV Coordinator

Photographer

It is hoped the Congregation enjoyed the photos in The Link during 2025. Many special components of the Services were captured and placed in The Link. There were also many celebrations throughout 2025. Thank you for the many other folk who have contributed photos to The Link throughout the year, during my absences (attributed as anonymous).

January 2025: Blue Christmas Service at Trinity Presbyterian Church, December 15, 2024 (anonymous). Hope, Peace, Joy and Love – Symbols of Advent in Action – Activity Group sewing, knitting and crafting supplies delivered to Compassionate Resource Warehouse, December 2024 (Sheelagh Garson). Sunday in Switzerland (George Smith). UVic School of Music Concert Chamber Groups, December 1, 2024. Gift of Christmas Music Carol Sing-Along, December 12, 2024. Christmas Eve Service December 24, 2024. Rev. Wes Denyer, December 29, 2024.

February 2025: Baptism January 12, 2025. Congregation remembering their own Baptism, January 12, 2025 (Dawn McLean). Soup Making for St. Andrew's & Inclusive Christians at UVic (anonymous). Robert Burns Concert and Tea, January 19, 2025 (Dawn McLean).

March 2025: Celebration and Thanks to Rev. Wayne Stretch on his Retirement as our Interim Moderator, February 9, 2025. A Birth, February 23, 2026. Come Celebrate our Choral Scholars on April 6, 2025 (anonymous). Communion Quartet at Practice (anonymous). UVic School of Music Guitar Concert, February 9, 2025. Rev. Mitch Coggin's last Communion Service, February 23, 2025. Celebration and Thanks to Rev. Mitch Coggin on his Retirement as our Transitional Minister, February 23, 2025.

April 2025: Gaza Response Continues (Patti Jackson). Meet Our Choral Scholars (anonymous). New Donation Box (anonymous). March UVic School of Music Concerts – Junebug Brass Quintet, Cellists, and Chamber Groups. St. Andrew's Choir. Zentangle Workshop (anonymous).

May 2025: St. Andrew's Vegetable Garden (Sheelagh Garson). Celebration of the Choral Scholars and our Retiring Music Director, Christine Purvis, April 6, 2025. St. Andrew's Welcoming a new Member by Transfer of Certificate from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, April 20, 2025. Standing Ovation for Christine Purvis, our Music Director, on her last Sunday, April 20, 2025. Worship lead by Rev. Dr. Richard Topping, April 27, 2025. Rev. Dr. Dale Woods, working with the Congregation to determine Vitalities, April 27, 2025. Vancouver Island Presbyterian Women's Retreat at Camp Imadene, April 25-27, 2025.

June 2025: Commemoration Service of the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and Rededication of the Memorial Windows, May 4, 2025. Presbyterian World Service and Development Updates – Myanmar and Afghanistan Patti Jackson. Seattle Children's Chorus, May 25, 2025 (anonymous).

September 2025: Harvest photos from St. Andrew's Vegetable Garden (Sheelagh Garson). Summer Camp VIP Photos – Little Qualicum Falls, Goldstream and Rathtrevor. Mad Hatters Tea Party July 10, 2025 (Joyce Nordwall). A cruise around the UK (Joyce Nordwall). Welcome to Susanne Reul-Zastre, our new Director of Music Ministry. A 55th Wedding Anniversary on July 11, 2025. Mustard Seed Street Church Helping those in need in our Community (Patti Jackson). A 71st Wedding Anniversary (anonymous). Quartet Fest West, June 28, 2025. GAIA Concert, July 5, 2025. Worship In The Park, July 20, 2025. Canada Day Greeters, June 29, 2025.

October 2025: A Holiday in Holland (Debra Verwey). Thanksgiving Donations to the Mustard Seed Street Church (Patti Jackson). An 80th Birthday Party, September 27, 2025. Visiting on the Mainland with Christine & Richard Purvis, September 23, 2025 (Jean Marcellus).

November 2025: British Columbia Synod 2025 – Rev. Coggin, Rev. Bellsmith, Rev. Geddes, Rev. Jay October 17-19, 2025 (Jerry Verwey). Soup for Around the Table Supporting Students at UVic with Meals at Inclusive Christians (Patti Jackson). Victoria Organ Studio visit to St. Andrew's, October 18, 2025 (anonymous).

December 2025: The Rev. Dr. John Allan's passing on November 20, 2025. UVic School of Music Guitar Recital, November 23, 2025. UVic's School of Music Cello Recital, November 30, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted, Jean Marcellus, Church Photographer

Website

Our website achieved 99% uptime, with efficient performance across both mobile and desktop devices.

Beyond our regular updates – weekly sermons, events, newsletters and bulletins – we implemented a verification and registration process for new Newsletter subscribers. This year, we have contacted and welcomed fifteen new subscribers who were verified and added to the mailing list managed by the Church Office.

Most of our subscribers found us through our [Events page](#), which continues to grow as a focal point for visitor engagement.

Special thanks to Shannon and volunteers for their ongoing, dedicated support and collaboration in maintaining the website with the current information year-round.

Respectfully Submitted, Martin Perez, Webmaster

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Who Are We?

Dave Garson, David McLean, Arthur Marcellus and Jerry Verwey

Property Repair and Renos

In our role of Facility Maintenance, 2025 was a busy year for multiple activities. Property looks at day to day facility needs but also tries to assess emerging and future needs. Thank you to Grant for his ongoing adaptability to his role at St. Andrew's. Thank you also to the Committee and volunteers for their assistance in maintaining St. Andrew's equipment and facilities.

Several new additions were installed:

1. A large screen TV for The Gathering Room to give audio visual support for St. Andrew's activities, and also for others who may make use of this room.
2. New LED fixtures were installed in the SW room in the Kirk Hall basement.
3. In June, it was noted that the leaded glass window at the base of the tower, facing Douglas St., was at risk of failure. Consequently, the window was removed, totally rebuilt and reinstalled by Orillia Glass. There are still several other windows that will need restoration in upcoming years.
4. Raised garden planters were installed in the laneway in preparation for a vegetable garden.

Maintenance of our facilities involves a significant amount of time and effort as we deal with the ongoing issue of vandalism and trespass. Unfortunately, this is not only at ground level but also on our roofs. In order to address this:

1. St. Andrew's, Rexall, and Broughton St. Parkade agreed jointly to add further fencing to the parkade to deter roof top intruders.
2. New fencing was installed around the Courtney Street window-well to deter intruders from climbing that wall. These efforts appear to have reduced the vandalism on the various roofs.

At ground level, graffiti, and various forms of vandalism continue and are being monitored and dealt with.

Annual reviews of the fire alarm system, fire extinguishers and emergency lighting was done.

The pressure washer, after many years of service, was replaced.

In December, the roof of the Bell Tower flooded. The smoke detector, located there, was destroyed by the leaking water. A fire alarm resulted and the fire department responded. Repairs were made and the detector was replaced. Property Committee will be looking at how to prevent future flooding.

The December rains caused a number of water leaks in the Kirk Hall. There were three separate leaks in the gym roof alone. The bump-out roof over the main floor washrooms leaked resulting in water on the floor of one washroom and major leakage into the basement rooms below. There were several leaks in the roof over the rear hall and another in the ceiling of the rear stairwell.

Immediate repairs were made however further repairs will likely be required. An assessment of the roof condition will be done by Flynn Roofing to determine what follow-up is required.

Finally, in December, the fridge in the main kitchen failed, was repaired, failed again and was taken out of use. This fridge was installed in 2011. We are investigating the purchase of a new fridge to be installed in January 2026.

Respectfully Submitted, Dave Garson, Co-chair Property Committee

Property Rentals

The Year 2025 has seen an increase in Community Use of our space. The upgrade of The Gathering Room has been well received. As our Treasurer has reminded us, our Community Users virtually cover our hard costs for the buildings.

There are events sponsored by the Congregation which are covered by our Insurance, and there are events which need special stand-alone Event Insurance. Property vets new users and Shannon, Church Administrator, manages the timetable, contracts and invoices.

We host daily AA noon time meetings. Along with our major user Ballet Victoria who have their office and practice space for the troop in the Sanctuary building (upstairs), Ballet Victoria has a Rental Agreement for use of the gym and space in the basement of the Kirk Hall.

St. Andrew's hosts Community Choirs which use the Sanctuary for practices. Tuesday is the Village Choir with over 100 members, Wednesday is the Pandora Choir and Thursday is our St. Andrew's Choir.

We had two movie rentals in 2025; they are always busy but financially helpful.

Session has agreed that a virtual Tap machine will be installed in the Vestibule as we have found that more folks are cashless when we host Events by Donation. Stay tuned for 2026.

Respectfully Submitted, David McLean, Co-Chair, Property Committee

Kitchen Report

2025 was a year of increased activity in our main kitchen, in the Kirk Hall, and also in our new serving area, The Gathering Room.

Both areas are kept in good working order on a weekly basis by our coffee teams, staff and guests of St. Andrew's. Timely reporting of any issues that arise is essential when there are multiple users of our facilities.

Thank you to all who take care to ensure that both areas are left in good order for the next user.

In November, we became aware of temperature issues in our large fridge in the main kitchen. Repairs were done however it was noted that further repairs would likely be required. In December, this proved to be true. As further repairs would be very costly, we investigated the purchase of a new fridge.

If you have questions about either area, please don't hesitate to ask. I am happy to help you find the answer needed.

Thank you to Grant for his ongoing monitoring and problem solving.

Respectfully Submitted, Sheelagh Garson

Property Report - Insurance

There were no outstanding issues with Insurance this past year. Our carrier remains Ecclesiastical Insurance which has a Faith Protection policy.

Respectfully Submitted, David McLean

FINANCE

Letter from the Treasurer

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Victoria BC
January 26, 2026

Dear Members and Friends of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church,

As we gather for our Annual Congregational Meeting, we give thanks to God for your continued faithfulness and generosity. The Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2025 reflect a Congregation that is active in ministry, attentive to good stewardship, and thoughtfully preparing for the future.

Throughout the year, St. Andrew's experienced stable Congregational giving, along with increased income from facility use, concerts, and community events. We were also grateful recipients of a significant one-time gift and estate contribution. While these gifts are not part of regular annual income, they have strengthened our reserves and enhanced the Church's overall financial position.

Expenses increased in several areas during 2025, particularly in Finance and Property, reflecting the ongoing costs of maintaining our historic building and supporting the administrative life of the Church. Even so, the year concluded very close to break even, representing a notable improvement over the previous year.

As of December 31, 2025, St. Andrew's remains in a sound financial position, with healthy reserve funds and growing net assets. These resources provide stability and enable responsible planning for ministry, outreach, and the continued care of our facilities, while supporting our mission within the Congregation and the wider community.

I am sincerely grateful to all who support St. Andrew's through offerings, special gifts, volunteer service, and prayer. Your generosity sustains the Worship, fellowship, and outreach that define our life together.

Please take time to review the Financial Statements included in this report and bring any questions to the Annual General Meeting. Thank you for your continued commitment to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. I look forward to meeting with you as we reflect on the past year and look ahead with hope.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Reimer, Treasurer
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Congregational Financial Report

Overview

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church has come close to breaking even for the 2025 year-to-date period. Total income reached **\$489,927**, while total expenses were **\$493,773**, resulting in a small deficit of **\$3,846**. This is significantly better than the budgeted deficit of **\$25,346**.

Key Income Highlights

- A **one-time estate gift of \$142,447** was received and transferred into reserves.
- **Congregational giving** fell short of budget by approximately **\$21,000**.
- Other income sources such as **hall rentals, concerts, grants, and rebates** performed above expectations.

Key Expense Highlights

- Most Committees are **over budget**, especially **Finance, Property, and Administration**.
- Property expenses (utilities, repairs, insurance, and one-time building costs) continue to rise.
- Communication & Administration costs are also higher than planned.

Summary

The Church's financial position this year is stable **primarily because of the one-time gift**, not because regular income covers regular expenses. The transfer of the Estate Gift into reserves strengthens long-term stability, but the Congregation of St. Andrew's must address the ongoing gap between regular income and operating costs.

RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

Strengthening Core Operating Income

- A year-by-year Increase from Congregational Giving through stewardship communication and promotion of pre-authorized and online giving.
- Pursue recurring grants and assign responsibility for Grant Applications.

Address Expenses - Monitor Overruns and Focus on Expense Management

- **Finance Committee:** Present normalized operating numbers excluding one-time transfers; review pulpit supply and interim ministry costs.
- **Property Committee:** Develop a 3–5 year property plan, explore energy-efficiency improvements, and separate one-time projects from recurring maintenance.
- **Communications & Administration:** Review vendor contracts, implement spending controls, and adjust future budgets to reflect actual needs.

Improve Transparency and Communication

- Provide simple quarterly summaries to the Session (Congregation?)
- Use two-tier reporting: high-level summaries for the Congregation and detailed variance reports for Leadership.
- Regularly show what Finances look like without one-time gifts.

Plan for Long-Term Sustainability

- Conduct 3–5 year scenario planning for income and expenses.
- Align ministry priorities with financial planning.
- Consider targeted fundraising campaigns (e.g., Building & Heritage Fund).

Submitted, Jack Reimer, Treasurer

Envelope Secretary

The Envelope Secretary works with the Finance Committee and volunteer counters. The Envelope Secretary meets weekly with a volunteer counter to count Offerings and make Bank Deposits Together, they ensure that Donations are attributed to the correct Donor and Designated Fund.

The Envelope Secretary is also responsible for:

- Donarius Software: Weekly donations data entry
- PAR System: Set up and maintenance
- Tax Receipts: Preparation and distribution
- Offering Envelopes: Set up and distribution
- Distribution List: Maintenance and mail outs

Please contact the Church Office:

- To sign up for PAR, or change your PAR status.
- To sign up for, or cancel, your Offering Envelopes.
- To change your mailing address or contact information.

Donations can be made via:

- Mail: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
 - 680 Courtney Street, Victoria BC, V8W 1C1.
 - Please remember to note what fund your Donation is for.
- E-transfer: treasurer@standrewsvictoria.ca
 - Please remember to note what fund your Donation is for.

Respectfully Submitted, Shannon Cummings, Envelope Secretary

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

12/31/2024 Operating Account	Income & Expenses to Dec. 31, 2025 Incomes	2025 Operating Account
	Congregational Offerings and Other Incomes :	
\$173,110.01	Congregation Giving's	\$193,588
\$2,786	Canada Helps & EFT's	\$3,938
\$0	One Time Gifts/Estate Gifts	\$142,447
\$0	Transfer to Reserves (Estates & Grants)	\$0
\$0	Federal Govt Loan (One Time)	\$0
\$2,796	Mission Directed Givings (2025)	\$5,021
\$3,927	Open plate	\$7,002
\$182,619	Total Congregation Givings	\$351,995
	Other Operating Incomes	
\$70,748	Ballet Victoria - Rent	\$80,347
\$0	Bank Interest/Rebates etc	\$0
\$300	Bazaar & Misc Incomes	\$380
\$0	Share The Joy	\$6,986
\$12,944	Sanctuary & Church Hall Rentals	\$17,727
\$931	Coffee Hour	\$991
\$4,082	Concerts – St. Andrew's	\$19,919
\$0	Concerts - Vict. Found. (Grant \$18,650 07/24)	\$465
\$3,688	Contracted Admin - Knox & Trinity	\$2,742
\$0	Contracted Income Recovered	\$0
\$0	Other Incomes	
\$600	Other Ministries/Share the Joy	\$100
\$0	CEBA Loan Forgiven/GST Rebate	\$1,843
\$3,005	Directed Givings PWS&D & Others	\$6,432
\$0	Victoria Foundation Dividend	\$0
\$18,650	Victoria Foundation Grant	\$0
\$114,947	Total Operating Incomes	\$137,931
\$297,566	Total Incomes	\$489,927

12/31/2024	Expenses	2025
	Expenditures by Committee	
\$46,660	Administration	\$54,607
\$0	Christian Education	\$0
\$9,409	Communications Committee	\$8,503
\$2,127	Congregational Life	\$94
\$110,398	Finance	\$195,506
\$872	Kitchen Expenses	\$328
\$27,050	Mission and Outreach	\$32,604
\$126,805	Property	\$144,981
\$3,726	Session	\$7,884
\$45,164	Worship	\$49,266
\$372,211	Total Expenses	\$493,773
-\$74,645	Net Income & Expenses	-\$3,846

Balance Sheet December 31, 2025

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Balance Sheet as of Dec 31, 2025

12/31/2024	Assets	2025
\$2,310	Accounts receivable (HST & GST Rebate)	\$2,886
\$0	Accounts Receivable - Trinity/Knox	\$164
\$270	Payroll Advance	\$270
\$1	Capital Assets	\$1
\$18,951	Credit Union Bank Account	\$59,969
\$15,450	Victoria Foundation Nonredeemable	\$15,450
\$666,216	Investment Accounts - CIBC	\$954,725
\$703,198	Total Assets	\$1,033,466
	Liabilities (incl. allocated Church Funds)	
-\$553	Payroll, EI, CPP & Fed Taxes clearing	-\$538
\$0	Accounts Payable	\$0
\$426,780	Special Funds (earmarked reserves)	\$425,260
\$9,001	Project Funds (earmarked reserves)	\$2,996
\$435,227	Total Liabilities	\$427,717
	Net Assets	
-\$250	Opening Balance Equity	-\$250
-\$323,351	Unrestricted net assets	-\$344,882
\$666,216	Reserve Funds - CIBC	\$954,725
-\$74,645	Current YTD Net Incomes & Expenses	-\$3,846
\$267,971	Total Net Assets	\$605,747
\$703,198	Total Liabilities, Church Funds & Equity	\$1,033,465
\$0.02	Rounding	\$1

Funds Summary

Project Funds	Balance 2025	Special Funds	Balance 2025
Bazaar	\$267.00	Centennial Scholarship	\$16,759.72
Choir	\$1.16	Higher Education	\$13,463.76
Camps	(\$100.19)	Student for Ministry	\$42,647.78
Friendship Club	\$163.78	Cordiner Fund	\$14,059.76
Kirk Hall Access Fund	\$298.55	Memorial Window Fund	(\$27,128.16)
Library	\$120.00	Memorials (Sanctuary)	\$22,732.59
Our Place	\$0.00	Organ Enhancement	\$13,957.38
Music Program	\$1,463.80	Restoration & Capital Spending	\$111,440.92
Mustard Seed Ministries	\$0.00	Session Funds:	\$15,526.33
PWSD - Special Appeals	\$0.00	Robert Britton Estate	\$53,789.46
Refugee Fund	\$0.00	Kirk Hall	\$358.75
Saturday Breakfast Club	\$0.00	Marion Patterson Fund	\$79,748.79
		Weatherdon Funds:	
Sunday School	\$632.07	Education for	
Sunday School Mission	\$149.57	Ministries	\$13,331.01
Thrift Shop	\$0.00	Memorial	\$24,413.15
Other	\$0.00	Music Students Assistant Fund	\$14,708.00
	\$2,995.74	Victoria Foundation (Non Redeemable)	\$15,450.27
		Total - Special Funds	\$425,259.51

DRAFT BUDGET MEETING 2025 MINUTES

Budget Meeting held January 26, 2025 for the 2025 Budget approval.

Meeting was live-streamed at 12:00 noon.

Constitution:

Interim Moderator Rev. Wayne Stretch opened the meeting with a reading from 'Under a Blazing Aspen' by Rev. David Webber, a missionary to the Cariboo. Then he opened the meeting with Prayer

Nomination of Secretary:

Motion:

Jerry Verwey, Session Clerk, as Recording Secretary.

Moved by: Verwey, 2nd by A. Marcellus

Carried

Presentation of the Budget 2026 by the Treasurer

J. Reimer noted that with the upcoming retirements for both the Transitional Pastor, Rev. Mitch Coggin and Interim Moderator Rev. Wayne Stretch, there will be uncertainties in the Budget. Jack noted some anticipated changes in the Budget, and that the obligation for the congregation is the salaries of the staff, therefore he hoped our givings would stay the course. Secondly, we are privileged that the rentals of our facilities cover the maintenance of our buildings. Jack explained the changes to the budget and reasons therefore. This gives a balanced budget which he is proposes.

Questions:

Motion:

1. Transfer to reserves indicated as \$110,000.00 and then changed to \$100,000.00 is that going back in reserves?
 - A. This is an Estate settlement of which \$100,000.00 is to go into Reserve fund and \$10,000.00 is held back for Operational costs.
2. Contracted Admin Knox/Trinity then Admin recovery as -\$6,000.00 for last year and for this year. Then when it gets to Admin it is \$0. What does that mean?
 - A. This is a sharing agreement for Administrative services since we pay Shannon on their behalf and recover this cost from those congregations. Her time spent there varies thus this is an estimate.
3. Presbytery did not assess the Church any costs but now it is at \$600.00. Is that confirmed or is it estimated?
 - A. This was estimated at the time of the budget preparation and the funds were sent. Subsequently, information arrived that the Assessment was \$500.00 and left to Presbytery if they wish to credit or return the excess.
4. Why are we paying for Internet support on an ongoing basis?
 - A. I can't speak to the amount of that support (\$6000.00)

- B. That is the amount for updating and maintaining our website on a monthly basis as well as the security for our e-mail services which have in the past been compromised.

Motion:

That the budget for 2025 be accepted as presented

Moved by: J. Reimer, 2nd by R. Bernard

Carried

New Business:

Notices from Presbytery Ministry Committee:

1. That effective February 1, 2025, and with the agreement of the Session of St. Andrew's, Victoria, **the Rev. Dale Woods** be appointed by Presbytery to begin an Assessment of Ministry Vitalities at St. Andrew's, Victoria. Costs to be covered by the Presbytery.
2. That effective March 1, 2025, to July 31, 2025, **the Rev. Laura Kavanagh** be appointed Interim Moderator at St. Andrew's, Victoria.
3. That effective August 1, 2025, **the Rev. Irwin Cunningham** be relieved of his duties as Interim Moderator at Trinity, Victoria with much appreciation and thanks, and appointed Interim Moderator at St. Andrew's, Victoria.

Question:

What is the method of the Assessor to hear from the Congregation?

- A. Rev. Dale will hear from both the Congregation as a whole and Session, about our Church's vitalities and resources strengths, and abilities. He was involved in our previous meetings with him but that was in a different direction for collaboration which was stopped in December by the vote of Knox Victoria.

Adjournment & Closing:

Motion to adjourn.

Moved by D. Smith

Carried

Rev. Wayne Stretch closed the meeting with Prayer at 12:30.

DRAFT MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

The meeting was held Sunday, March 9, 2025, following Worship at 12:30 PM, in the Sanctuary. The meeting was Livestreamed on YouTube with two people signing in. Livestream attendees could call in with the telephone number being posted on the livestream. Forty-two people attended in-person.

Constitution.

Rev. Laura Kavanagh, Interim Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer.

Memoria Minute

Memorial Minute was read out by the Roll Clerk, Jean Marcellus.

Nomination of a Secretary

Motion:

It was moved and seconded that Jerry Verwey, Session Clerk, be nominated as Secretary for the meeting.

Moved by Jean Marcellus, 2nd by Roger Bernard **Carried**

Explanation of Process by Jean Marcellus

Approval of the Agenda as presented

Motion:

That the Agenda, as presented, be approved.

Moved by David McLean, 2nd by Colina Titus **Carried**

Approval of the Minutes of the 2024 Budget Meeting held on January 21, 2024

Motion:

That the Minutes of the 2024 Budget Meeting held January 21, 2024 be approved as presented in the Annual Report for 2024

Moved by Patti Jackson, 2nd by David McLean **Carried**

Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting held on February 25, 2024

Motion:

That the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting held February 25, 2024 be approved as presented in the Annual Report for 2024 as corrected (Roger Bernard's first name was incorrectly spelled).

Moved by Moira Bernard, 2nd by Joyce Nordwall

Carried

Approval of the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting, October 27, 2024 to approve Application for Heritage Funds for the tower work – re-pointing bricks and capstone work.

Motion:

That the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting, held October 27, 2024, to approve expenditure of funds and application for two heritage funds, to cover partial cost for re-pointing the bricks and securing capstones of the tower, be approved as presented in the 2024 Annual Report.

Moved by Dave Garson, 2nd by Jerry Verwey

Carried

Comment:

David McLean noted that the trusts are awaiting the allotment of the city to the trusts and we are in the system once the trusts have confirmed their funding.

Approval of the Committee Reports, as presented in the Yearly Annual Report 2024.

Comments about the Report

- There are reports of the functioning of eight committees and sub groups. This is an important record of our history, reflecting many hours of commitment; everyone should read and absorb what was accomplished in 2024.
- There are reports of the functioning of Session.
- Comments on the Christian Education report regarding teaching of children again. The need for teachers was expressed and the possibility of a once-a-month Sunday School requiring more than two persons.
- It was noted that that same lack of commitment affects our nursery. Where just recently, a visiting family had to leave to attend their children in the nursery. What does that say about our congregation?

Motion:

That Committee Reports, as presented in the Annual Report for 2024, be received and approved.

Moved by Roger Bernard, 2nd by Arthur Marcellus

Carried

Reaffirmation of the Trustees

Motion:

That the congregation approve the list of Trustees as presented, being Arthur Marcellus, Dirk Ryneveld, David McLean & Jack Reimer.

Moved by Moira Bernard, 2nd by Joyce Nordwall

Carried

New Business

Parking update. The parking in the Broughton Street parking is no longer effective for the St. Andrew's parking pass because they have gone digital. For now, the Sussex parking is still in effect as is the free parking in the Library Parkade.

VE day, May 8th, has the retired colonel of the Canadian Scottish asking if they could come on May 4th to rededicate the memorial windows in our Sanctuary, north wall main floor. Thursday May 4th may be a Memorial Service for the end of the European war.

Motion to adjourn

MOTION

There being no further business, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Moved by Jerry Verwey.

Carried.

Closing Comments & Benediction from Jude 24 by Rev. Kavanagh